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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.american-samoa.gov>

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Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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## AS Homeland Security receives \$800K for TEMCO operations

The AS Department of Homeland Security has been awarded a grant of \$864,711

In a July 27 letter to Governor Togiola Tulafono, DHS director Tuala Mike Sala informed the Governor that he has received the award notification for a grant application they submitted under the FY 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program.

Funds awarded in this round of funding will support costs for TEMCO personnel, operations, and the delivery of the following projects:

- Hazard identification and risk assessment
- Emergency operation complex communication infrastructural hardening

- Island wide surveillance cameras (phase II)
- Improvements to emergency operations/response plans

Tuala said ASDHS continues to function under pre-approval of expenditures and strict cash draws conditions, and his staff maintains focused on compliance with grant guidelines and corrective action plans submitted to the FEMA Region IX administrator.

ISDHA/FEMA Assistance Administrator Grant Programs Directorate Elizabeth M. Harman, congratulated Tuala on the approval of the grant application and said the federal share is 100% or \$864,711 of the approved amount, meaning

ASDHS does not have to pay a cent.

Gov. Togiola commended Tuala and his staff on their efforts in restoring federal funding for the territory. (The US Department of Homeland Security had froze all funding for American Samoa for some time, after audit findings revealed disallowable spending and mismanagement of funds).

But Tuala and his staff have been able to turn things around, by addressing the issues cited in the audit findings and cutting the amount of questionable spending from \$7 million all the way down to about \$8,000.

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## Gov. Togiola says data shows the Manu'a Islands are "not forgotten"

During the recent Manu'a Flag Day celebration, Manu'a District Governor Misalefua Hudson spoke about the Manu'a Islands being forgotten, with not enough being done to meet the needs of the people there.

Governor Togiola Tulafono used his weekend radio program to set the record straight, arguing that Misa's claims are far from true, and data proves that much has been done to assist the residents of the neighbor-

ing island group.

Gov. Togiola referred to the areas of electricity and education, saying Tutuila electric customers are actually 'subsidizing' the electric service for Manu'a, and it

(Continued on page 3)

# Over \$1 million available from HUD

Money continues to be made available for American Samoa in the form of grants and different programs that benefit the government and the territory's residents. Just last week, Congressman Faleomavaega Eni announced from Washington DC that \$1,485,137 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grants and the HOME investment Partnerships Program has been made available to the territory from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The breakdown of the funds is as follows:

- \$1,133,433 in Community Development Block Grants
- \$51,807 in Emergency Shelter Grants
- \$299,897 for the HOME Investment Partnerships

The CDBG program provides communities with resources to address unique community development needs. It is one of the longest

running programs at HUD and is an important tool that helps local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities.

The Emergency Shelter Grants program provides basic shelter and essential supportive services for the homeless, as well as assist in preventing homelessness for people at imminent risk of losing their homes due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs. ESG funds are available for the rehabilitation or remodeling of a building used as a new shelter, operations and maintenance of the facility, essential supportive services, homeless prevention, and grant administration.

The HOME Investment Program is designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. Each year, the HOME program allocates approximately \$2 billion to the states and hundreds of localities nationwide. HOME funds are awarded every year as formula grants to participating jurisdictions, and the

program's flexibility allows states and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees, or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Faleomavaega thanks the local community leaders and recognizes their efforts in "serving our communities on the grass roots level." He said, "These funds are meaningless without dedicated servants to go out into the field and implement quality programs and services. Thank you for your hard work and service to our people." The Congressman also thanked his colleagues in Congress and President Obama for securing funding for these essential programs, and he commended HUD secretary Shaun Donovan for his commitment to "strengthening our communities through effective implementation and continuation of these grants."

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **To all alcoholic beverage licensees**

Be advised that the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Ta'ita'itama Prevent Underage Drinking Initiative and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board *will be conducting compliance check activities in your area beginning December 2010 and continuing through December 2011.*

Please remember that selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years old is illegal per American Samoa Code, Title 27, Chapter 05; Section 27.0531:

***"No licensee may sell any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21."***

American Samoa is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its people. Our priority issue is to combat and prevent underage drinking and the problems that arise from this illegal activity.

For additional information, feel free to contact the  
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws - EUDL Program  
at 633-1582

# Manu'a Islands are "not forgotten"... *(continued from page 1)*

costs much more to educate a child in Manu'a as it does to educate a child in Tutuila.

The Governor acknowledged that the biggest challenge facing the Manu'a Islands is in the area of transportation. Outside of that, Gov. Togiola said Manu'a has enjoyed the full benefits of government services.

According to the Governor, 75% of Manu'a natives actually live in Tutuila and reap the same benefits as Tutuila residents. Also, many of the cabinet members are sons and daughters of Manu'a.

For electricity, Togiola provided data proving that when he took office in 2003, the total cost for electric operations in Manu'a was \$150K but only \$40K was collected from customers. The following year,

in 2004, the total cost of improvements and operations increased to \$470K while only \$70K was collected. Essentially, this means Tutuila electric customers are 'subsidizing' Manu'a's electric operations.

Just 2 years ago in 2009, total cost for operations was \$152K but only \$97K was collected.

As for education, Gov. Togiola said it costs more than \$4,000 to educate a child in Manu'a, while it only costs about \$1,000 to educate a child in Tutuila. The figure is based on the fact that it cost the government \$1.18 million annually to support education services in Manu'a for 295 total students.

As for other areas of service, Gov. Togiola acknowledged the

availability of programs from the Development Bank of American Samoa for the residents of Manu'a. He also noted that since 2003, more than double the number of new jobs have been created, enabling residents to remain in Manu'a and provide service for both the government and the private sector, especially construction.

Gov. Togiola also touched on the area of telecommunications, saying the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority recently completed part of its broadband initiative for the islands of Ofu and Olosega, and new equipment has been transported to Manu'a to improve television service.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Matafao School  
(located southwest of the entrance to Pago Pago Harbor on the  
Island of Tutuila, American Samoa)

Recently, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former **Matafao School**. **This site was used by the United States Navy for offshore debris disposal and landfill activities from 1900 through 1964.**

The former **Matafao School** is one of many former military installation throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

**Feleti Barstow Public Library**  
**PO Box 997687**  
**Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799**

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former **Matafao School**, please contact:

**Helene Takemoto, Project Manager**  
**USACE, Honolulu District**  
**Attn: CEPOH-PP-E, Building 230**  
**Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440**

e-mail: [FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil](mailto:FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil), Telephone: (808) 438-6931

## ASG RADIO PROGRAM

*With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono*  
**On: KSBS FM 92.1 Saturdays @ 7:30 a.m.**

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On August 3, 1881**, Nathan Woodworth Post, American Samoa's eighth naval governor (acting: March 14 - July 14, 1913 and October 2 - December 6, 1914) was born in Fonda, Iowa.

**On August 4, 1900**, Edwin William Gurr was designated as Secretary to the Commandant of the Naval Station, and also as Judge and Legal Adviser.

**On August 4, 1905**, volcanic activity began on Savai'i's northwest coast, as Mount Matavanu erupted. The eruption "almost wiped out Lealatele district and much of Saleaula. People re-established in Leauvaa and Salamumu respectively. The volcano was active until September 1911."

**On August 5, 1878**, U.S. Commissioner Gustavus W. Goward and some chiefs of Tutuila signed agreements transferring certain lands in Fagatogo to the U.S. Navy for use as a coaling station. Goward raised the American flag over Goat Island.

**On August 5, 1953**, Lawrence McCully Judd ended his term as American Samoa's fourth appointed civil governor (since March 4, 1953). He resigned because of poor health.

**On August 5, 2003**, US Army Specialist Farao K. Letufuga, age 20, was killed in Mosul, Iraq when he fell from the roof of a building while on guard duty. He was the first Samoan soldier to die in Iraq.

**On August 6, 1914**, the German steamer *Staatssekretär Solf* (State Secretary Solf), a "small (350 tons) slow wooden vessel of little value" arrived in Pago Pago Harbor seeking refuge from possible capture in German Samoa. She remained in Pago Pago, flying the German flag, until April 7, 1917, when the United States declared war on Germany and seized her.

**On August 9, 1830**, Reverend John Williams of the London Missionary Society set sail from Vavau, Tonga, en route to Samoa aboard his two-masted schooner the *Olive Branch* (later renamed the *Messenger of Peace* [*Savali o le Filemu*]), "a craft 20 metres long and with an 8 metre beam," which he built himself with wood from the *tamanu* tree, "using great ingenuity, and with virtually no machinery."

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**On August 10, 1942**, at "MOB 3" (the U.S. Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3, in Mapusaga, American Samoa), "forty buildings were in use, including the recently finished X-ray facility and a second operating room. The construction pace had slowed, with the hospital staff now busy caring for the 51 patients.

## American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA)

### Plastic Shopping Bags BAN

#### *Plastic Free, The Way To Be...* Alternative Plastic Shopping Bag Serial Numbers Approved

AS-EPA would like to remind the public and retailers that only alternative plastic shopping bags that have been specifically approved by the AS-EPA can be distributed in American Samoa. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) in Samoa and has reviewed the bags and documents submitted by various retailers concerning the use of "Samoa Biobags." Based upon AS-EPA's review, "Samoa Biobags" are compliant with the new Plastic Shopping Bag Ban (PSBB), A.S.C.A. 25.2034 if they have the following serial numbers:

- CPMNREPTI/0808002
- CPMNREPTI/0710001
- CPMNREATC/0610001
- CPMNREFEE/0211009

Retailers and restaurants may use these alternative shopping bags in their stores; however, they must still comply with all other aspects of the PSBB. This is not an approval for any other plastic bag. All "Samoa Biobags" must have one of the serial numbers listed above printed on the bag to be eligible under this approval. This approval is granted with the understanding that it will expire on the date of expiration of the certification from MNRE in Samoa and may be rescinded sooner if found necessary by AS-EPA.

We also encourage any store that wishes to use alternative plastic bags to pick up instructions and a submission from our office in Pago Plaza to help expedite the approval process.

For more information please call AS-EPA at 633-2304 or visit our website: [www.asepa.gov](http://www.asepa.gov)



# Gov. Togiola to meet with TAOA seniors on proposed federal changes to voucher program

The federal government plans to replace food vouchers (valued at \$25 a month) for local senior citizens, with cooked meals delivered to their homes.

Governor Togiola Tulafono said during his weekend radio program that he intends to meet with local senior citizens and the director of the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) to discuss the new federal policy which he says was one of the issues he raised with federal officials of the Office of the Administration on Aging while he was in San Francisco to attend the Federal Regional Council meeting in July.

Gov. Togiola explained that senior citizens use every penny of the \$25-dollar food voucher they receive every month, and replacing the

vouchers with cooked food means the elderly will not receive the entire \$25 they are entitled to, as it is unclear how much of the money will be paid out to those cooking the food, and how much will be paid out for administrative costs.

The Governor wants the federal government to reconsider replacing the food vouchers with cooked food as, according to him, the practice of delivering cooked food to the homes of senior citizens who qualify for the program was previously done in the Territory but the problem was, most of the elderly did not want to eat the cooked meals because it was not to their liking.

Local senior citizens did not prefer 'palagi food' so natu-

rally, they did not take to the cooked meals.

Gov. Togiola said he has been informed that the federal plan is not permanent, and American Samoa needs to draw up a proposal that fits local needs.

The Governor says he plans to meet with local senior citizens and the TAOA director to discuss what they want to do, whether to continue with the current \$25-dollar a month in food vouchers or going with what the federal government proposes.

Gov. Togiola said the meeting is necessary, so senior citizens can be informed of what is going on, so they can offer their own views and opinions.

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## AMERIKA SAMOA HUMANITIES COUNCIL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT Grant Proposals – Cycle III 2011

The Amerika Samoa Humanities Council is now accepting proposals for its Major and Mini Grant Programs. These grant programs are made available to encourage public non-profit organizations to conduct humanities projects which may focus on one or more of the following humanities disciplines: archaeology, art history criticism, history, language, ethics, comparative religion, philosophy, and jurisprudence.

Project contents and activities should feature this year's program theme "American Samoa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Applications and program guidelines are available at the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council Office.

If you have a non-profit organization and are interested in these grant programs, please stop by our office for an application or contact us at 633-4870. A preliminary application is required for the Major Grant Program. Grant proposals are due on September 16, 2011.

*These grant programs are supported by the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*